

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

January 2004



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Overall South Central unemployment rate rose less quickly than usual in December

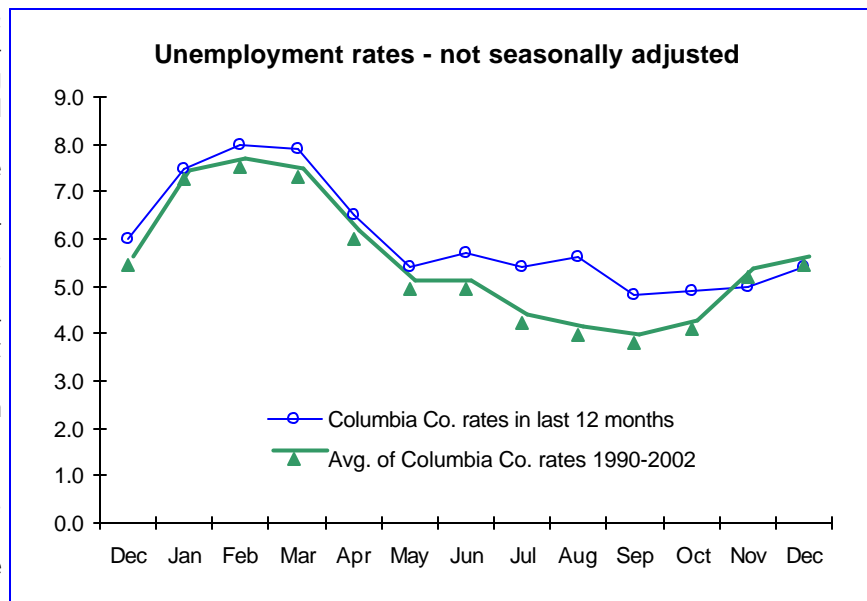
Usually, unemployment rates in **Columbia County** drop considerably in the spring and summer, so this summer's rates may have caused concern. Against that backdrop, the November and December rates (which dipped *below* typical levels) look comparatively encouraging. Employment-by-industry estimates on page 2 show the transportation, warehousing & utilities sector below 2002 levels for the first time since June. Retail & wholesale trade appears to be weathering this winter better it did than last winter, after struggling through the first half of 2003. July and August saw over 400 more leisure & hospitality jobs in 2003 than in 2002, while December 2003 saw just 200 more leisure & hospitality jobs than December 2002.

Dane County's unemployment rate rose in December, but was not as far above typical levels as it had been in the summer months. (See page 2 graph.) The retail trade sector started 2003 about 2,000 jobs below its 2002 level and ended the year about 2,000 jobs over its 2002 level. The professional & business services sector saw less stable,

sustained growth in 2003 than in 2002, but ended 2003 well above its December 2002 levels.

In **Dodge County**, the unemployment rate rose more sharply than usual, but did not exceed typical December levels by nearly as wide a margin as July through September rates exceeded their typical levels. (See graph on page 3.)

The manufacturing sector lost jobs in December, to finish 2003 with 610 fewer manufacturing jobs than it had finished 2002. This is roughly consistent with Dodge County's manufacturing trends from January to July of 2003 and slightly more discouraging than estimates from August through November. Autumn and early winter saw stronger job education & health services job growth in 2002 than in 2003.



Jefferson

County's unemployment rate experienced uncharacteristically large declines from August through November, but rose faster than usual in December. Fluctuations in construction employment continue to follow last year's seasonal trends

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,068,600	-4,120	63,800	454,500	-810	16,600	28,600	-240	1,150	294,200	-390	12,800
Employed	2,922,600	-12,780	76,700	440,000	-1,750	17,300	27,100	-320	1,270	287,500	-540	13,200
Unemployed	146,000	8,700	-12,870	14,500	940	-720	1,540	80	-120	6,700	150	-390
Unemployment rate (%)	4.8	0.3	-0.5	3.2	0.2	-0.3	5.4	0.4	-0.6	2.3	0.1	-0.2

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	45,800	-150	720	42,200	0	600	7,700	30	320	36,100	-70	960
Employed	43,500	-390	750	40,400	-160	640	7,000	-80	330	34,500	-260	1,100
Unemployed	2,400	240	-40	1,780	160	-40	670	110	-10	1,510	190	-130
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	0.5	-0.2	4.2	0.4	-0.2	8.7	1.4	-0.5	4.2	0.5	-0.5

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

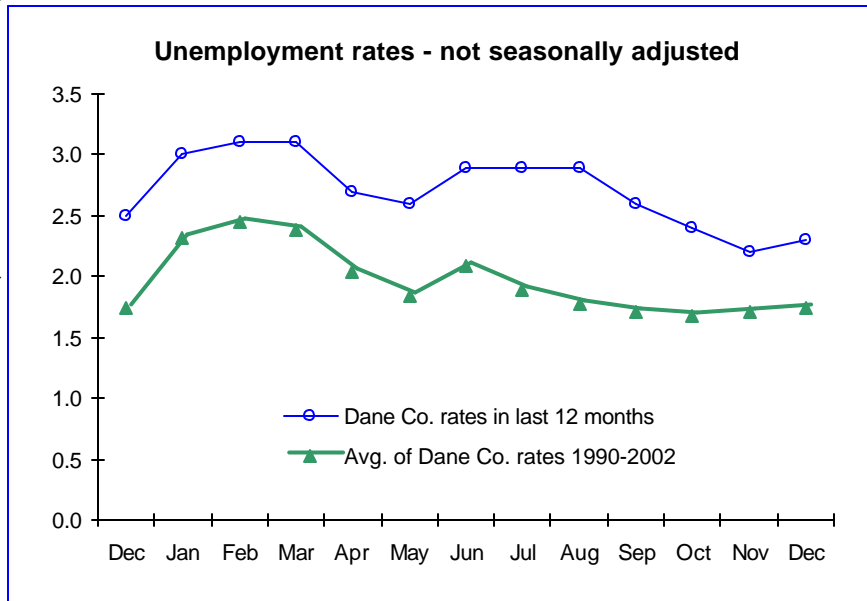
fairly closely. Education & health services employment continues to grow, but has yet to reach the December 2002 level. The manufacturing sector should see some pickup in coming months if a labor dispute is resolved and a manufacturer of power generators expands operations as planned. In any event, a printing concern announced its intent to lay off over 200 workers by the end of 2003.

In December, **Marquette County's** unemployment rate rose faster than usual, roughly countering November's slower-than-typical increase. Construction employment still follows last year's seasonal pattern with slight improvements. In January 2003, the sector started the year 50 jobs below its January 2002 level; by December, it had worked its way up to 20 jobs over the December 2002 level. Leisure & hospitality started 2003 about 50 jobs above its 2002 level and finished around 10 jobs over its 2002 level.

Sauk County spent most of 2003 slightly above or below its typical unemployment rates. The county's structural difficulties in the early 1990s dragged up the average upon which the typical rate is based, but structural changes in the local economy since

then may have changed local perceptions of typical rates. The summer decline in unemployment was slower than usual, as was the autumn increase. Construction employment was below 2002 levels from January 2003 through October 2003; November and December were the first months to see improvements over 2002 figures. For each month of 2003, there were fewer financial activities jobs than in the same month of 2002, until December, when the sector matched its 2002 level. Until August, lei-

sure & hospitality was roughly 2,000 to 2,500 jobs over its 2002 levels; in December it was just 150 jobs over its 2002 level. This suggests dramatic seasonality among the jobs added.



Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

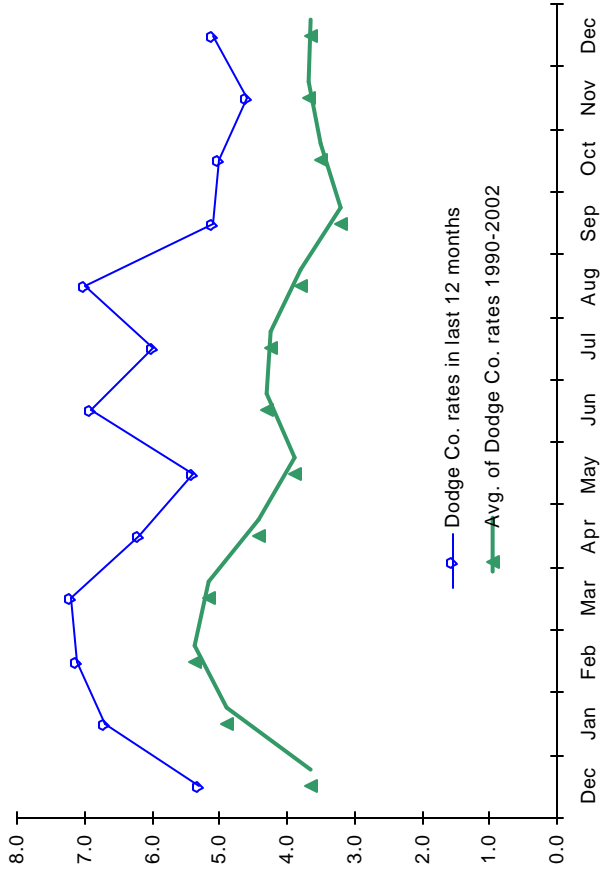
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,785,800	-9,800	-900	436,900	-1,280	5,600	21,400	-140	430	308,000	-600	6,200
Const., min'g & nat. resources	115,600	-8,500	-6,500	22,200	-680	1,510	1,160	-60	30	15,700	-100	1,300
Manufacturing	508,300	-500	-13,600	60,600	-50	-890	4,800	-30	-70	29,400	100	900
Trade (wholesale & retail)	446,500	3,000	8,200	67,000	1,060	3,300	3,300	0	170	46,500	1,100	2,600
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,700	-500	-1,100	11,000	-190	-300	690	-50	-10	7,300	0	1,000
Financial activities	159,200	300	5,800	29,300	110	1,070	600	0	70	25,500	0	1,000
Education & health services	371,500	-700	10,700	44,500	290	1,220	2,600	0	40	29,500	200	1,000
Leisure & hospitality	232,200	-300	700	39,300	-530	410	2,400	20	190	23,300	-400	-200
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	430,000	-1,600	2,700	68,500	-640	1,350	2,000	-20	50	56,100	-500	1,400
Government	417,800	-1,000	-7,800	94,600	-650	-2,000	3,900	-10	-40	74,700	-900	-1,600
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	32,900	-200	-330	35,200	-90	-870	4,000	-80	80	35,500	-160	120
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,200	-170	20	1,280	-70	70	160	-80	20	1,750	-210	70
Manufacturing	9,900	-130	-610	9,000	20	-930	1,310	0	0	6,200	-10	-180
Trade (wholesale & retail)	4,000	40	60	6,200	-30	150	470	10	10	6,600	-50	280
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,020	-10	10	1,190	-10	-60	50	0	-10	770	-30	-40
Financial activities	720	10	-30	990	20	40	120	0	0	1,340	80	0
Education & health services	4,300	30	180	4,600	50	-20	300	0	-10	3,300	0	20
Leisure & hospitality	2,600	-50	120	3,300	-30	130	450	-10	10	7,100	-60	150
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	2,900	-10	20	4,500	-60	-50	230	10	10	2,700	-60	-90
Government	5,300	90	-100	4,100	10	-220	900	-10	30	5,700	170	-90

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision.

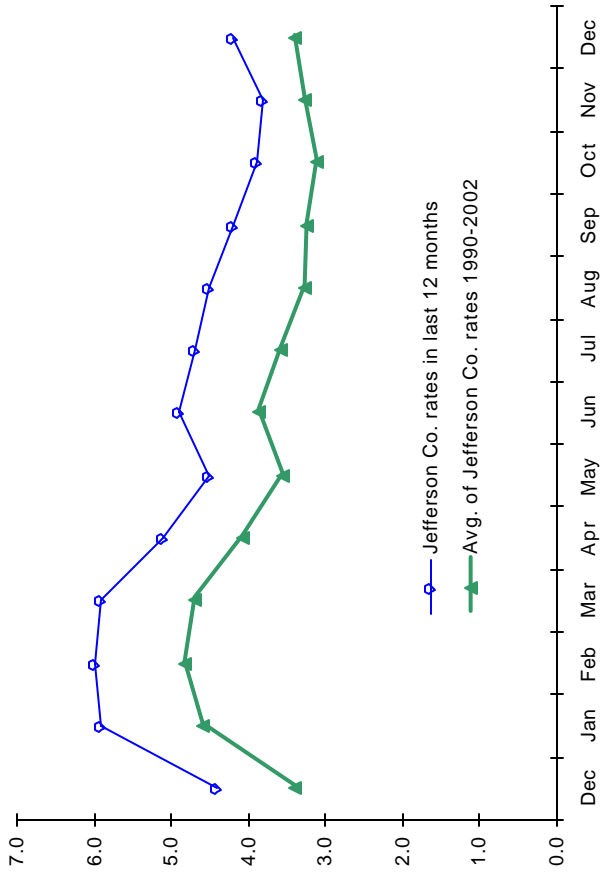
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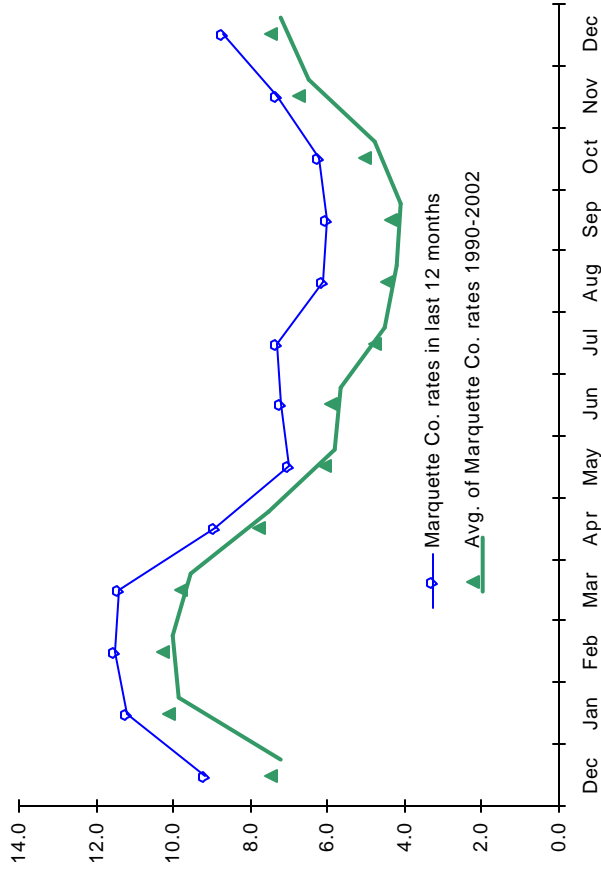
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



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